

"PERFINS"

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My Way of Mounting Perfins

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I first began collecting stamps about 15 years ago, when I ran across a few stamps included as a "prize" with a bar of candy. They fascinated me, and on being told that people collected "those bits of colored paper," I started too. On purchasing a dime store packet of mixed stamps, I ran across a few perfins. I saved them separately, but was told to throw them away as they were "worthless." Being stubborn, I didn't. Instead I mounted them face down, on a sheet of black paper, so that I could recognize the initials. When I heard of "Perfins," I felt vindicated, and immediately joined the society.

I now mount my "types" in a loose leaf photo album using black pages, $10\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ inches. Using a white pencil, I rule off the pages beginning $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the top and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the right hand side. I make spaces $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches high by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide for each stamp, with a $\frac{3}{8}$ in. space below each space in which I identify the stamp using white ink. Below all this I draw a space $\frac{3}{8}$ in. wide to identify the country. (It's just a psychological twist, everyone looks at the bottom of the page first.)

This spacing gives five lines of ten stamps each. Carrying the psychology further, I put only one letter type on a line (a's on one line, b's on the next line, etc.) Thus the book doesn't look so empty. When one line is full, it is continued on the next page.

All the stamps are mounted so the initials read right side up when viewed in a mirror. This makes it simpler to read as most stamps are punched from the top.

At present I have 241 different U. S. types and 138 different foreign types from 12 countries.

I haven't as yet made an album for the issues, but expect to make the type design by exposing photo paper to the "shadow" of the perfin wanted, developing and fixing it. Then mounting alongside the stamps.

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As to our journal and catalog sheets; I made a cover of black paper, using paper rivets to fasten it. I cut out the printing on the envelope the "PERFIN" comes in, and paste it on the top center of the cover. My name and "number" on the bottom center, thus "personalizing" it for me.

My album and journal brought favorable comment at our local stamp club, and has brought new respect to perfins once considered worthless. AND to my benefit a promise to save me additional perfins.

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